

II
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
MID - SUSSEX AREA

1969



RURAL DISTRICT OF CUCKFIELD

By

D. M. RICHARDSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
MID - SUSSEX AREA

1969

RURAL DISTRICT OF CUCKFIELD

By

D. M. RICHARDSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Charles Clarke (Haywards Heath) Ltd.

1970

INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
Ambulance Facilities	12
Ardingly Show Ground	23
Births and Birth Rates	3, 8-10
Clean Air	27
Clinics and Treatment Centres	13-15
Complaints	27, 28
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	23
Deaths and Death Rates	3, 8-12
Dysentery	5
Environmental Inspections	18
Factories	24, 25
Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960	19, 21
Food Inspection	19
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Establishments	27
Housing	21, 22
Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases	12, 17
Immunisation—Mid-Sussex Area	3
Improvement Grants	21
Infant Mortality	3, 8-10, 12
Infectious Disease	4, 15, 26
Infective Jaundice	5
Infestation	25
International Certificates of Vaccination against Smallpox and Cholera	4
Laboratory Facilities	12
Meals on Wheels Service (W.R.V.S.)	7
Medical Examinations	7
Meningococcal Meningitis	4
Milk Supply	6
Moveable Dwellings	22
National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951	6
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	23, 24
Petroleum Storage	29
Poliomyelitis (Suspected) in the Mid-Sussex Area	5
Population	8
Poultry Dressing and Packing	20
Public Conveniences	27
Rateable Value	8
Rodent Control	26
Salmonella Paratyphoid	4
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	18
Smallpox	12
Staff	8
Statistics	8
Swimming Pools	6, 23
Tuberculosis	16
Vital Statistics	8-10
Water Supplies	18

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Health Department,
Oaklands,
Haywards Heath.
November, 1970
Tel. Haywards Heath 50301

To the: Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Rural District Council.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1969.

After falling steadily for five years the corrected birth rate of 13.43 showed a slight upward trend which, when combined with a fall in the death rate, gave a natural increase in population of 110 as compared with 36 for the previous year.

The infant mortality rate of 15.02 also fell slightly as did the perinatal mortality rate, a figure of 11.25 being recorded for the Mid-Sussex area. No still births were reported in the Cuckfield Rural District during the year.

Expressed as a percentage of total live births, the illegitimacy rate was 6.65. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The number of deaths due to cancer of the lung and bronchus (26), one less than last year, represented 7.30% of total deaths.

IMMUNISATION—MID-SUSSEX AREA

During the year the following immunisations on children under 16 were carried out in the area :—

Triple Antigen:

Primary Injections	496
Reinforcing Injections	854

Diphtheria and Tetanus:

Primary Injections	7
Reinforcing Injections	1,262

Diphtheria:

Primary Injections	—
Reinforcing Injections	7

Tetanus:

Primary Injections	28
Reinforcing Injections	132

Smallpox Vaccination:

Primary Vaccinations	..	..	..	868
Revaccinations	..	..	..	276

Poliomyelitis:

Primary—oral vaccine	..	..	..	502
Reinforcing doses	..	..	..	1,757

Measles:

Primary Vaccinations	882
----------------------	----	----	----	-----

Measles vaccinations were reduced by the shortage of vaccine.

Influenza—Immunisation of Staff

In November multivalent vaccine was given to fifty-four members of the staff.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX AND CHOLERA

During the year 2,391 certificates were authenticated by the Health Department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One hundred and eighteen cases of infectious disease were notified during the year and, of the total notifications received, 45 were attributed to dysentery and 35 to infective jaundice. There were five cases of food poisoning, two cases of paratyphoid fever and one case of acute meningitis.

Salmonella Paratyphoid

This was an unusual case in that the two victims, a mother and her 2½ year old son who are resident on a farm in the Rural District, had not recently returned from abroad although the child's grandmother, who had visited the farm some two weeks prior to the incident, had just returned from a cruise.

It would appear that during the grandmother's visit she had baked a cake for the family (a lightly baked sponge mixture made with duck eggs) which had been consumed by the mother and son. The child's father, who did not eat any of the cake, had no symptoms and was found to be negative.

In view of the association with duck eggs the District Public Health Inspector rounded up all the ducks and submitted swabs to the Public Health Laboratory. Unfortunately, this zealous effort did not reveal the presence of paratyphoid B although another *Salmonella* (*Salmonella typhimurium* type U218) was isolated and when in due course, the grandmother was traced, about a month later, she was also found to be negative.

The District Inspector made a thorough investigation of the environmental situation on the farm and all possible human contacts were investigated with negative results.

In my view this incident was most likely to have been caused by a transient carrier state in the grandmother following a holiday abroad.

Meningococcal Meningitis

This case, a four year old boy, was admitted to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children, Brighton. On visiting it was learned that the whole family, including the case, had suffered from an upper respiratory infection prior to the above diagnosis being made in one of its members and arrangements were made for all the family (six in number) to receive a course of prophylactic penicillin.

Sonne Dysentery

On the 2nd June the Medical Officer to a Boarding School sought my advice concerning an outbreak of gastro-enteritis which had affected pupils in the school since the end of April. The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and I visited the school and made arrangements for the collection of specimens from recent cases. The environmental situation at the school was found to be excellent. In due course, shigella sonnei was isolated from the specimens submitted and it was decided to screen the whole of the school population, including kitchen staff. Over 130 specimens were submitted to the laboratory of which twenty-three proved to be positive, the latter all being derived from individuals who had apparently not experienced any symptoms.

In order to minimise the chances of a prolonged carrier-state in those affected, anti-biotic treatment was not prescribed, reliance being placed on the maintenance of a high standard of personal and environmental hygiene in the school. With this object in view a recently acquired disinfectant* spray operated by compressed air was made available to the school for regular disinfection of door handles, w.c. seats, etc., in the toilets and cloakrooms.

It is believed that the conscientious use of the foregoing measures, several times a day, played a great part in bringing this outbreak to an end.

*Resiguard.

Infective Jaundice

Of the thirty-five cases of infective jaundice notified in the Cuckfield Rural District, twenty-one were associated with a troublesome outbreak which commenced in February at a preparatory boarding school. Eleven other cases notified in the Cuckfield and Burgess Hill Urban Districts were also linked with the school outbreak. The prolongation of the Easter recess to six weeks did not, unfortunately, have the desired effect and, when further cases occurred in both resident and day pupils at the beginning of the new term, bringing the distinct possibility of an extension of the infection through siblings to other residential schools, it became necessary to consider more positive measures.

The Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale was approached and gamma-globulin injections obtained for all staff and pupils who had not had the disease (approximately 150). Following immunisation of all those still considered to be at risk, no further cases of infective jaundice were reported from the school. Throughout this incident particular attention was paid to kitchen hygiene and when the outbreak was over recommendations were made for the improvement of the facilities available at the school. Much of this work has now been carried out.

Note: Gamma-globulin does not offer permanent protection against infective jaundice but a passive immunity for a period of about six months.

SUSPECTED POLIOMYELITIS IN THE MID-SUSSEX AREA

The patient, a married woman of 29, became ill on the 23rd July with severe headache and generalized aching of the muscles. As the illness progressed the pain localized in the lumbar region and headache became the predominant feature. Nuchal rigidity also developed and there was a phase of photo-phobia lasting about two days.

On the 28th July the patient was admitted to Brighton General Hospital for observation. On the 1st August the patient developed weakness of the left arm and leg with loss of tendon reflexes and it was decided to have the patient transferred to Foredown Hospital for Infectious Diseases where clinical and laboratory findings, following lumbar puncture, confirmed the provisional diagnosis of poliomyelitis.

In view of the patient's unsatisfactory immunisation history (one injection of Salk vaccine 10 years earlier) and the persistence of paralysis, immunisation with oral vaccine was offered to all members of the small community in which the patient resided—a total of 29 households. Special evening clinics were held on the 11th and 12th August to enable an effective immunisation programme to be carried out.

On the 19th August the Public Health Laboratory reported that Echo virus (type 9) had been isolated from the patient's stools. The patient made a slow recovery from the illness and remained in hospital until the 29th September. On her return home it was necessary to provide her with a Home Help for a few weeks.

Note: Rivers and Horsfall ("Viral and Rickettsial Infections in Man") have reported that Echo 9 virus has been isolated in a few patients with mild transitory paralysis in whom concomitant infection with polio virus was excluded by serological tests. In the Milwaukee epidemic (1958) Sabin has described a case in which a diagnosis of spinal paralytic poliomyelitis was recorded in a 20 year old girl who received two doses of Salk vaccine. The latter exhibited weakness and dizziness on standing, was unable to do sit ups and had enough tightness of the back muscles and weakness of the hips to require crutches for getting around for a period of about two months. No polio virus could be detected in the stools in the presence of Echo 9 anti-serum.

SALE OF UNPASTEURIZED MILK FROM VENDING MACHINES

For some years Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors have been concerned with the sale of untreated farm bottled milk from vending machines in the Brighton and Mid-Sussex area. This practice, although perfectly legal, has led on several occasions to problems associated with the isolation of *brucella abortus*—the organism responsible for undulant fever in man. On at least one occasion during the past few years it has been necessary to place an order on infected milk in order to prevent it from being sold for human consumption unless heat treated to the satisfaction of the public health authorities (Section 20, Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959).

I am glad to say that the potential dangers associated with the sale of untreated milk from vending machines came to an end this year when the main dealer informed me (September 1969) that, in the future, all milk sold in his machines would be pasteurized.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There is only one public swimming pool in the area under my supervision. This open-air pool is situated in the southern half of the district. Mains water is used for filling at the beginning of the season and is treated at the pool by pressure filters, aeration and chlorination.

Samples from the above, together with those obtained from swimming pools attached to private schools, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the bathing season.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 47:

This Section provides for the compulsory removal from their homes of elderly, infirm or incapacitated persons, who are not receiving proper care and attention. Such persons are often living on their own under poor and insanitary conditions and although it was not necessary to take formal action under this Section, several cases were investigated during the year.

W.R.V.S. MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

During 1969 a total of 10,028 meals was provided. Since the inception of this service in January, 1962, a total of 46,372 meals has been provided.

Great credit is due to the local W.R.V.S. for the administration and day-to-day running of this valuable service.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

During the year medical examinations were carried out for the following authorities :—

Cuckfield Rural District	..	..	..	..	1
Cuckfield Urban District	..	..	..	..	1
Burgess Hill Urban District	..	..	..	..	2
East Sussex County Council	..	..	..	..	61

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Relf, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his help and co-operation in the work of the department and for the particulars which he has supplied for this report. I also wish to record my appreciation to other members of the staff for their loyal support during the year, particularly Mrs. Patten, my Secretary.

In conclusion I would like to thank members of the Council, particularly the Chairman and members of the Health and General Purposes Committee, for their support and also the officers and staff in other departments for their help during the year.

D. M. RICHARDSON

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	..	D. M. Richardson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.I.P.H.H. (Also <i>Medical Officer of Health to Cuckfield Urban and Burgess Hill Urban Districts</i> and <i>Medical Officer (part-time) to East Sussex County Council</i>)
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	..	..	R. S. Relf, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods</i> <i>Qualified Housing Manager</i> <i>Qualified Building Inspector</i>
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	..		B. P. Darking, M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods</i>
<i>District Public Health Inspectors</i>	..		H. Sharp, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods</i> J. F. Tucker, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 31.1.69) <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods</i> <i>Qualified Smoke Inspector</i> R. J. Hossack, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 1.10.69) <i>Qualified Inspector of Meat and other Foods</i>
<i>Secretary to the M.O.H. and Administrative Assistant</i>	..	..	Mrs. W. M. Patten, M.A.Med.Sec.
<i>Clerks to the M.O.H.</i>	..	..	Mrs. B. P. Westgate Miss S. Blanchard
<i>Secretary to the C.P.H.I.</i>	..	..	Miss I. Robbins
<i>Clerks to the C.P.H.I.</i>	..	..	Mrs. M. Wood (Resigned 31.1.69) Miss G. Cassam (Appointed 7.7.69)

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the years:

	1967	1968	1969
Area of the District in Acres	68,011	68,011	68,011
Population estimated to middle of year	35,950	37,110	37,810
Rateable Value	£1,243,121 (at 1.4.67)	£1,289,449 (at 1.4.68)	£1,370,096 (at 1.4.69)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£5,110	£5,300	£5,600
Density of Population (persons per acre)	0.53	0.55	0.56
Number of Houses	11,083	11,293	11,711
Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	14.22	13.31	13.43
Death Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	8.44	9.67	8.01
Infant Mortality Rate	4.30	17.66	15.02

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births								Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	222	213	435
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	15	31
Total Live Births								238	228	466
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population (crude)								..	..	12.32
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population (corrected)								..	..	13.43
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births								..	..	6.65

Still Births								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate..	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
								—	—	—
Total Still Births	—	—	—
								—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1000 (live and still births)	0.00

								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total Live and Still Births								238	228	466

Infant Deaths								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---------------	--------------

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
								—	—	—
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	7
								—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rates:—

(a) All infants per 1000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.02
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.49
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64.52

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---------------	--------------

Legitimate..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
								—	—	—
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3
								—	—	—

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live births	6.44
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---------------	--------------

Legitimate..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
								—	—	—
Total ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
								—	—	—

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live births	4.29
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Perinatal Mortality								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---------------	--------------

Still Births and Deaths under 1 week	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1000 total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Cuckfield Rural..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.29
(b) Mid-Sussex Area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.25

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.00

Deaths								<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
---------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	-------------	---------------	--------------

All Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	202	154	356
Death Rate per 1000 of the population (crude)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.42
Death Rate per 1000 of the population (corrected)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.01

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1955-1969

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Birth Rate	Number of Deaths			Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M	F	Total		M	F	Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total										
1955	25,920	163	145	308	4	7	11	12.30	148	160	308	11.88	4	3	7	21.94	11
1956	26,490	173	150	323	5	3	8	12.50	146	167	313	11.81	4	3	7	21.14	18
1957	27,270	159	166	325	6	4	10	12.28	148	150	298	10.93	—	6	6	17.91	37
1958	27,880	173	202	375	14	3	17	15.46	159	181	340	9.75	4	3	7	17.85	52
1959	28,750	207	191	398	13	6	19	15.51	147	172	319	9.09	4	4	8	19.18	98
1960	29,470	237	226	463	12	4	16	17.38	162	280	442	9.51	5	1	6	12.52	37
1961	30,470	236	240	476	8	4	12	16.66	177	187	364	10.27	2	3	5	10.25	124
1962	30,770	238	240	478	10	12	22	16.90	190	190	380	10.62	8	3	11	22.00	120
1963	31,000	276	224	500	10	11	21	18.49	220	201	421	11.40	3	3	6	11.52	100
1964	33,590	272	258	530	13	7	20	18.00	164	166	330	8.24	2	4	6	10.91	220
1965	34,980	245	225	470	13	20	33	15.81	191	168	359	8.41	1	1	2	3.98	144
1966	35,470	244	205	449	14	13	27	14.76	189	187	376	8.58	2	3	5	10.50	100
1967	35,950	224	214	438	10	17	27	14.22	202	187	389	8.44	2	—	2	4.30	76
1968	37,110	229	197	426	19	8	27	13.31	216	201	417	9.67	5	3	8	17.66	36
1969	37,810	222	213	435	16	15	31	13.43	202	154	356	8.01	5	2	7	15.02	110

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under 1 Year	1- 14	15- 44	45- 64	65- 74	75 and over
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—oesophagus	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant neoplasm—stomach ..	M	4	—	—	—	—	2	2
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Malignant neoplasm—intestine ..	M	5	—	—	—	1	1	3
	F	9	—	—	—	3	2	4
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	M	22	—	—	—	8	10	4
	F	4	—	—	—	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm—breast ..	F	10	—	—	—	6	3	1
Malignant neoplasm—prostate ..	M	3	—	—	—	1	—	2
Leukaemia	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other malignant neoplasms ..	M	9	—	—	—	3	3	3
	F	10	—	—	—	5	—	5
Diabetes mellitus	M	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases ..	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Anaemias	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other diseases of blood, etc. ..	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases of nervous system, etc.	M	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	M	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	1	2
Hypertensive disease	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	M	56	—	—	—	15	21	20
	F	30	—	—	—	2	6	22
Other forms of heart disease ..	M	12	—	—	—	—	2	10
	F	15	—	—	—	—	5	10
Cerebrovascular disease	M	25	—	—	1	2	4	18
	F	22	—	—	—	2	7	13
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	11	—	—	—	1	1	9
	F	8	—	—	—	2	1	5
Influenza	F	5	—	1	—	1	1	2
Pneumonia	M	11	—	—	—	2	1	8
	F	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Bronchitis and emphysema ..	M	10	—	—	—	2	1	7
	F	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Peptic ulcer	M	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital anomalies	M	3	1	1	1	—	—	—
	F	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc. ..	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Symptoms and ill defined condi- tions	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Motor vehicle accidents ..	M	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other accidents	M	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
	F	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals:	M—202 F—154	356	7	3	4	67	84	191

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CUCKFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

	1968	1969
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (Ischaemic disease)	170 (40.77%) 109 (26.14%)	141 (39.61%) 86 (24.16%)
(ii) Cancer (all sites) (Cancer of Lung and Bronchus)	77 (18.47%) 27 (6.47%)	82 (23.03%) 26 (7.30%)
(iii) Cerebrovascular disease	51 (12.23%)	47 (13.20%)
(iv) Respiratory diseases (including tubercu- losis and influenza) (Respiratory tuberculosis)	58 (13.91%) Nil	38 (10.67%) Nil

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

<i>Cause</i>	<i>Age</i>
1. Cardiac arrest due to unknown cause. Three weeks pre-mature and dysmature	10 hours
2. Respiratory distress syndrome. Prematurity (28 weeks gestation)	2 days
3. Edward's syndrome	4 weeks
4. Congenital heart disease	6 weeks
5. Thombocytopenic purpura. Congenital hydrocephalus ..	7 weeks
6. Gastro-enteritis	2 months
7. Intestinal obstruction. Hirschsprung's disease	4 months

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratories are utilised for the examination of specimens:

Public Health Laboratory, Brighton

Cuckfield Hospital Laboratory

Public Analyst's Laboratory at Lewes

I would like to express my thanks to the Directors of the above Laboratories for their assistance, particularly Dr. J. E. Jameson, of the Brighton Public Health Laboratory, for his helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious disease are removed by one of the East Sussex County Council's ambulances stationed at Haywards Heath or Burgess Hill Ambulance Station.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Until October, 1969, beds were available at Goddards Green Hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease. Since then the beds* at Goddards Green have, for the time being, become part of the welfare accommodation available to the elderly under Part III of the National Assistance Act (East Sussex County Council) and all cases of infectious disease requiring observational treatment have been admitted to Foredown Isolation Hospital.

A table on page 17 gives particulars of admissions during the year.

*Accommodation for 32 females.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Child Health Clinics:

Ardingly	..	..	Hapstead Hall	1st and 3rd Thursday Dr. on 3rd Thursday
Balcombe	..	..	Church Hall	3rd Wednesday
Bolney	..	..	Rawson Institute	4th Friday Dr. each session
Copthorne	..	..	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Tuesday Dr. on 3rd Tuesday
Crawley Down	..		Village Hall	2nd and 4th Tuesday Dr. on 2nd Tuesday
Horsted Keynes	..		Congregational Hall	3rd Friday
Hurstpierpoint	..		Methodist Hall	1st and 3rd Wednesday Dr. each session
Keymer	..	..	Congregational Church Hall	2nd and 4th Monday Dr. on 2nd Monday
Scaynes Hill	..	..	Women's Institute Hall	2nd Thursday
Slaugham	..	..	Village Hall, Handcross	3rd Monday Dr. each session
West Hoathly	..	..	Village Hall	1st Tuesday Dr. each session
Lindfield	..	..	Congregational Hall	Toddlers Clinic 1st Tuesday, 9.30-12 noon (by appointment) 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 2.30-4 p.m. Dr. each session

Clinics:

Immunisation	..	..	Methodist Hall, Cuckfield Road, Hurstpierpoint	3rd Wednesday 2.15 p.m.
			Village Hall, Crawley Down	2nd Tuesday 2.15 p.m.
Chest	..	..	Haywards Heath Hospital	Every Thursday 9.30 a.m. (by appointment)
			Cuckfield Hospital	Thursday 2 p.m. Diagnostic
Orthopaedic	..	..	B.R.C.S. (H.Q.) Paddockhall Road Haywards Heath	<i>Orthopaedist:</i> 2nd Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1.0 p.m. <i>Physiotherapist:</i> Tuesday 10.30 a.m.-1.0 p.m. Friday 9.30 a.m.-1.0 p.m. 2.0 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

Speech Therapy ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands Haywards Heath	Tuesday 9.15 a.m.-12.15 p.m. (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Mon. 1.30 p.m.-3.0 p.m. (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic Royal George Road Burgess Hill	Mon. 9.0 a.m.-12 noon (by appointment)
Child Guidance ..	East Grinstead: Moat Road	Every Thursday (by appointment)
	Lewes: Castlegate House	Every Wednesday (by appointment)
	Portslade: Old Shoreham Road	Tuesday morning Thursday (by appointment)
	Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road	Every Friday (by appointment)
	Crowborough Mead House Beacon Road	Every Tuesday (by appointment)
Eye Refractions .. (School Children)	Haywards Heath Hospital	Every Friday morning (by appointment)
	Morley Street Clinic Brighton	Alternate Thursday mornings (by appointment)
Dental	Haywards Heath: E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands	By appointment
	Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic Royal George Road	By appointment
	East Grinstead: County Dental Clinic Moat Road	By appointment
Minor Ailments ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands Haywards Heath	As required
Cancer Prevention ..	Haywards Heath: E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands	Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings as necessary (by appointment)
	Burgess Hill: E.S.C.C. Clinic Mill Road	Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	E.S.C.C. Clinic Royal George Road	Wednesday mornings and evenings as necessary (by appointment)
	East Grinstead: Moat Road	Wednesday mornings and evenings as necessary (by appointment)
*Family Planning ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic Oaklands Haywards Heath	Every Wednesday 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)

*These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

Venereal Diseases .. Facilities available at Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton

Women .. Tuesday .. 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Thursday .. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Men .. Monday .. 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
Wednesday .. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Thursday .. 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Men and Women .. Friday .. 11 a.m.

Urgent cases only
(By appointment direct to V.D. Clinic)
New patients must attend 1 hour before clinic closes

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	Over 25
Acute Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	5	—	—	—	2	2	1
Dysentery	45	—	2	9	29	2	3
Infective Jaundice	35	—	—	3	21	1	10
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
Measles	26	1	14	8	1	2	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals:	118	1	20	21	53	7	16

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS

Year	New Cases						Deaths						Number on Register at end of Year					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1948	12	9	21	2	2	4	7	5	12	-	1	1	59	51	110	27	34	61
1958	8	5	13	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	71	165	10	12	22
1959	6	1	7	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	96	70	166	11	13	24
1960	3	4	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	76	171	11	11	22
1961	5	1	6	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	97	74	171	12	11	23
1962	2	4	6	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	77	173	11	12	23
1963	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	75	171	9	10	19
1964	2	1	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	61	150	7	11	18
1965	5	1	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	89	65	154	7	11	18
1966	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	87	62	149	7	11	18
1967	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	82	54	136	6	11	17
1968	4	2	6	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	57	141	7	12	19
1969	-	1	*1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	80	57	137	6	11	17

*Female aged 35

GODDARDS GREEN HOSPITAL, HASSOCKS AND FOREDOWN HOSPITAL, PORTSLADE

Forty-seven cases were admitted to hospital from the Mid-Sussex area for observation and or treatment in connection with known, or suspected, infectious diseases:—

Disease	Goddards Green Hospital	Foredown Hospital
Food Poisoning	—	1
Dysentery	—	2
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	—	1
Observation Diarrhoea and Vomiting (Old Still's Disease)	—	1
Enteritis	—	1
Virus Meningitis (Echo 9)	—	1
Mild Virus Meningitis	—	1
Observation Polyneuritis	—	1
Quinsy	—	1
Haemolytic Streptococcal Throat	—	3
Mumps	1	3
Mumps/Meningitis	—	2
Mumps/Encephalitis	—	1
Mumps/Orchitis	—	2
Glandular Fever	—	5
Observation Glandular Fever	—	10
Glandular Fever and Giardia Lamblia Infection	—	1
Giardia Lamblia Infection	—	1
Infective Jaundice	2	—
Chickenpox	1	—
Bilateral Broncho-pneumonia	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1
Chest Infection	—	1
Tuberculosis	2	—
Totals: ..	6	41

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. R. S. Relf, Chief Public Health Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the district.

WATER SUPPLY

As the following table will show, over 99% of houses and shops are connected to the public main or a private service—the district is well served in this respect.

Parish	No. of premises	Premises with piped supply	
		No.	Estimated population
Albourne	224	222	723
Ardingly	513	513	1764
Balcombe	595	591	1948
Bolney	391	389	1311
Clayton	627	627	2364
Cuckfield Rural	796	793	2313
Fulking	113	102	344
Horsted Keynes	466	466	1337
Hurstpierpoint	2001	1993	6763
Keymer	2085	2085	6429
Lindfield Rural	621	621	2095
Newtimber	43	43	153
Poynings	110	108	322
Pyecombe	89	89	384
Slaugham	726	723	2080
Twineham	90	90	286
West Hoathly	598	598	2265
Worth	2235	2210	6363
Totals: ..	12323	12263	39244

Samples are regularly submitted by the Department for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. This supplements the regular routine monthly (or more frequent) programme of the Water Undertakers themselves (Brighton Corporation, East Surrey and Mid-Sussex). None of the sources is plumbo solvent in character and filtration and chlorination is practised as a routine safeguard.

During the year, mainly to obviate the need for permanent treatment of the raw water, one private supply (serving ten dwellings) was discontinued and main water substituted.

ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

STAFF

In my previous report it was mentioned that staff shortage in 1968 had seriously interfered with the programme of routine day to day work, so that a "backlog" existed at the end of the year. Unfortunately there was no improvement in 1969, one of the three Districts being without a covering Inspector for eight months, and a further work deficit was carried forward into 1970.

At the time of writing this, it is known that the picture for 1970 is even worse because the Inspector appointed in October, 1969 (and both members of the office staff) left at the end of March, 1970, and a replacement Inspector will not be available until January, 1971. Due to illness, we were without the services of the remaining Inspector, for three months.

It is of interest to recall that when the professional establishment was raised to three Inspectors in 1937, the population was 24,220; when raised to four in 1945 the figure was 25,600, and in mid-1969 it was 37,810. The loss of Three Bridges (and a population of 4,300) in 1953 resulted in a drop in establishment of one Inspector and this was not restored until 1966, by which time it had become quite impossible to satisfy the requirements of the current legislation with the staff then available.

FOOD AND DRUGS AND FOOD HYGIENE ETC. LEGISLATION

Milk Supply

The majority of milk retailed in the district is pasteurised, the balance being farm bottled "Channel Island" which, although from Tuberculin Tested stock, is still a potential source of Brucella Abortus infection. The supply of untreated milk to agricultural workers is always a matter of some concern in a rural district such as this.

The trend for milk to be distributed by fewer and larger concerns continues. More retail shops sell milk, almost invariably from refrigerated cabinets. All school milk is pasteurised.

Food Inspection

With the inevitable curtailment of routine visits, most food inspection was as a result of trade requests or because of complaints of unsatisfactory commodities.

The voluntary surrender system resulted in the following items being accepted as being unfit for human consumption:

From Wholesale Stores	Canned Fruit	1,518lb.	(163 tins)
	Canned Vegetables	48 "	(8 ")
	Canned Meat	606 "	(72 ")
From Retail Stores	Canned Fruit	554 "	(48 ")
	Canned Meat	102 "	(47 ")
	Meat	121 "	
	Offal	60 "	
	Fish	133 "	
	Vegetables	112 "	

All food complaints were investigated fully and this is quite a time consuming exercise and can give rise to much travelling.

As it happens, all cases could be dealt with informally which is desirable when a genuine mistake has occurred. Provided the aggrieved purchaser accepts the position and a real effort made to prevent a recurrence, then court proceedings can usually be avoided.

Despite highly sophisticated equipment now being in general use, many cases of dirty milk bottles are reported but, bearing in mind the vast daily throughput of bottles, the percentage of failures is really very low indeed. In nearly every case misuse by a previous customer is the cause, milk bottles being temporarily used as receptacles for fluids the residue of which cannot be removed by normal mass production cleansing methods.

The offence being to put the milk in a dirty container, and the "place" being the bottling depot, substantiated complaints have to be passed on to the authority of the district concerned.

With the advent of the “ container ” trade in foodstuffs, duties once the exclusive preserve of sea and airport authorities, are liable to be added to inland area responsibilities. There is a fairly large wholesale distributors depot in the north of the district but to date container traffic—although anticipated in the future—has not materialised.

Foodshops and Catering Establishments

At the last full survey the number and classification of premises was as follows:—

Type of Premises	Number of premises			
	Total No.	Fitted to comply with Reg. 16	To which Reg. 19 applies	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Catering Establishments ..	77	77	77	77
Schools (Private and State) ..	31	31	31	31
Grocers' Shops	68	68	68	68
Sweet Shops	16	16	—	—
Butchers' Shops	17	17	17	17
Greengrocers' Shops	11	10	11	9
Confectioners' Shops	11	11	11	11
Wet Fish Shops	3	3	3	3
Fried Fish Shops	2	2	2	2
Mobile Fish Shops	1	1	1	1
Mobile Fried Fish Shops	1	1	1	1
Wholesale Stores	2	2	2	2
Totals	240	239	224	222

Checks regarding compliance with “ food hygiene ” requirements could not be made in respect of all premises during the year, but it was confirmed that, with the two exceptions noted above, deficiencies outstanding at the end of the previous year had been attended to.

Standards in general, as indicated by random samples of the various trades visited, continued to be satisfactory. Although a further detailed survey of all food premises is now due, the worsening staff position in 1970 places this as one of the priorities for 1971—if the full establishment (effective from 4/1/71) can be maintained.

Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses at present in use in the district, and so spot checks only are made at butchers' shops from time to time. Experience suggests that the present inspection service carried out at abattoirs and slaughterhouses is perfectly adequate for all normal purposes.

Poultry Dressing and Packing

Although it was anticipated that the production of table poultry within the district would tend to increase somewhat, there was little change during the year under review. Indeed it is quite possible that one large turkey production unit may cease operation in 1970 due to difficulties of competing financially with rearers in the East Coast region. As suggested in Circular 21/61 a general oversight over the industry's own inspection system is maintained, 84 visits being made in this connection during the year.

Local Authority and Private Schools

Inspections of all schools are included in the Departments routine workload. Facilities at local authority schools are, in general, very satisfactory, and the improvements at private schools recorded last year, continues.

Homes (for the Elderly) registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948

Two of the five registered homes are administered by the East Sussex County Council, the remainder by other organisations. Satisfactory conditions were noted upon inspection.

Premises registered under Section 16

Twenty-four specific visits were made to the following premises where conditions in general were found satisfactory :—

No. of premises used for the sale of ice-cream	.. ..	116
No. of rooms used for the preparation of sausages	..	8
No. of rooms used for the preparation of meat by cooking		5
No. of rooms used for brining/pickling of meat	.. ..	1

HOUSING

Improvements

As for last year, available time was utilised mainly in respect of the improvement of dwellings with financial aid under grant provision. From the inception of the scheme, this Council has appreciated the logic of saving the "twi-light" house and, by the end of the year, 1077 discretionary and 94 standard grants had been approved. (36 and 5 respectively being the totals for the year under review, which was not a representative one, applicants tending to await the operation of the later scheme because of the probable higher ceiling figures anticipated).

The Housing Act, 1969 became operative on 25/8/1969 and it is unfortunate that, because it was being amended almost up to the time of the Royal Assent, local authorities' administering officers were not in possession of the details in advance of the official publicity in the press and on radio and television. As a result it was difficult to deal with the initial enquiries received from the public, and this did little to encourage confidence in those who had to deal with applications. Added to which, it must be conceded that the early press releases were far from clear with the result that prospective applicants armed with press cuttings were in conflict at times with officers armed with the Act and official Ministry Circulars.

Once the teething troubles have been overcome, unquestionably the new provisions are a real improvement on the previous scheme. The old "maximum" figures had become quite unrealistic, and because—to obtain the required life and satisfy the conditions—in many cases expensive repairs had to be required before a grant could be approved, many a house was allowed to deteriorate because the owner could barely afford his share of the improvement cost let alone pay for the repairs necessary.

Repairs are now eligible for consideration, provided "improvements" are also envisaged; this proviso is not understood by many a prospective applicant whose proposal, for instance, may relate solely to the repair of a roof, and in consequence, is not within the grant scheme.

Authorities which have energetically sponsored the grant scheme in the past are at a disadvantage in that, the "easy" houses having already been dealt with, those remaining tend to be the ones with problems.

By the end of the year spontaneous applications having come forward at a rate that could only just be coped with, there was no reason to 'go out and sell the scheme.' Once interest begins to wane—and that position has not yet been reached—we shall have to arrange meetings at parish or village level to maintain the momentum of one of the most useful of all post war developments.

Four dwellings which were not considered suitable for renovation with grant aid were dealt with formally, and undertakings accepted in each case.

Payments during the year of £13,382 for discretionary and £615 for standard grants brought the accumulated totals at the end of the year to £284,567 and £9,256 respectively.

Rent Control

The Housing Act, 1969, not only both complicated and simplified improvement procedure, but it placed a new responsibility on local authorities in respect of this aspect.

There is little doubt that, overall, the deterioration of rented properties (more so in larger conurbations) was a direct result of the inability of many private landlords to obtain a reasonable return on their investment in property. It is not difficult to appreciate that the weekly outlay on accommodation is a major factor in a family's outgoings. Yet in many cases the proportion of income allocated to essential housing is absurdly low when compared with other commitments.

By the fixing of fair rents—with the proviso that certain basic amenities will be available and the dwelling itself will be in a good average state of repair—the majority of private landlords ought to have a fairer deal in the future and, at the same time, their tenants' interest will be safeguarded.

Cases of financial hardship are bound to occur, but there is usually a method of alleviating this.

It has since been officially recognised that the Provisions of Part III are "complicated and the statutory procedures to be followed are lengthy" and if administering officers might have felt a little confused in the initial period, this was matched by almost complete lack of comprehension on the part of the public and its professional advisers. As a result, few serious enquiries were dealt with during the year.

The new procedure really takes the place—in a more positive form—of the now obsolete Certificate of Disrepair. Whereas formerly either party could appeal to the Court against a Certificate matter (the result being a straight confirmation, amendment or rejection) the Council under the new rent procedure has to defend its decision in court, which makes it even more important that the decision (taken in most cases by the officer under delegated powers) is as correct as is humanly possible.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

This heading covers two types of use; one where a site is used as a permanent home for a family or for recreation purposes, the other where, usually without the consent of the owner, a family "camps" on a site as an expedient, not having any other "fixed abode."

Apart from short term use (which is covered by specific exemption) sites used for caravans are subject to licence conditions which are initially drawn up, and subsequently administered jointly, by the Engineer, Surveyor and myself.

Inspections carried out revealed, in the main, satisfactory conditions although, it must be admitted, a full survey of all sites is something that must be arranged as soon as an opportunity exists.

Itinerants present a special problem. At the expense of the County Council the Walstead Site (which also covers Chailey R.D.C.) was developed and this is now supervised by the Housing Manager who also has the subsequent responsibility of integrating the family into the next stage of movement, which is the tenancy of a council house.

BATHING FACILITIES

In addition to sporadic bathing in two large lakes and a river, one pool is available to the public and seven provided within school premises.

All samples taken during the year proved to be satisfactory.

ARDINGLY SHOW GROUND

The first show on this new " permanent " site arranged for 1967, indicated the main problems that had to be dealt with. As a result, the 1968 South of England Show passed without any real trouble. The much larger " Expo 68 "—in spite of " new " organisers—also passed with very little difficulty indeed. The 1969 main show and also the smaller local exhibitions and rallies similarly passed off without incident.

Mass catering, where large numbers are dealt with on only a few days of the year, presents special problems in the early days of an enterprise such as this, and it is pleasing to note the overall improvement effected in only three years. Close liaison exists with the Society's officers.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

No complaints were received in respect of any of the six licensed premises; the apparatus concerned is fairly remote from habitation and, bearing in mind the rather unpleasant odours produced, this is indeed fortunate.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

One hundred and two inspections—mainly to confirm the rectification of previously noted transgressions—were carried out during the year, and only a few additional minor matters were drawn to the attention of proprietors.

The intention is, as soon as the three Districts are manned once more, comprehensively to survey all registered premises. In a district such as this, which has no serious " O.S.R." problems, a full survey every few years is considered preferable to the spreading the load over say three years, particularly with the frequent change of staff suffered recently.

For statistical purposes the following tables are incorporated herein.

TABLE A—Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	1	44	1
Retail Shops	2	115	6
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	2	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ..	—	25	3
Fuel storage depots	—	5	—
Totals ..	3	191	10

TABLE B

No. of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises . . . 102

TABLE C—Analysis of Persons Employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of workplace					Number of persons employed
Offices	..	..	..	..	298
Retail shops	..	..	..	..	377
Wholesale departments, warehouses				..	45
Catering establishments open to the public					153
Canteens	..	..	..	..	24
Fuel storage depots	..	..	..	..	16
					913

Total males—404
Total females—509

FACTORIES

During the year 29 routine visits were made and no statutory action was found to be necessary.

1. INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority . .	98	28	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals: . .	101	29	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	—	1	—
Totals:	3	3	—	3	—

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel						
Making, etc.	10	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning and Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFESTATION

(a) General

Although the Department does not undertake general disinfestation work as a routine, the following treatments were carried out in special cases:—

No. of premises treated for fly infestation ..	10
No. of premises treated for cockroaches ..	1
No. of premises treated for ants	4
No. of premises treated for fleas.	1
No. of premises treated for beetles	1

(b) Rodent Control

The operative (who has a small van provided) carried out (free of charge) treatments to 278 dwellings and (at a charge—£70 10s. 0d. during the year) to 46 business premises or farms.

Naturally Council owned properties are treated as necessary during regular routine visits, whilst where appropriate, visits by the Public Health Inspectors to food and other premises also include enquiries under this head.

A summary of information in respect of all premises is as follows:—

Private Dwellings

No. of dwellings surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	..	308
" " " where treatment was carried out	.. ..	278
Total number of treatments carried out to private dwellings	.. ..	311
" " " visits to private dwellings	.. ..	1301

Business Premises

No. of foodshops surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	..	6
" " food shops where treatment was carried out	.. ..	4
" " catering establishments (including hotels and schools) surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	.. ..	21
" " catering establishments where treatment was carried out	..	17
" " other premises surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	..	22
" " other premises where treatment was carried out	.. ..	19
" " farms surveyed, or visited as a result of notification	.. ..	86
" " farms where infestations were found: In survey	..	14
By notification	—	6
		20
" " farms where treatment was carried out	.. ..	6
Total number of treatments carried out at business premises	..	62
Total number of visits to business premises	.. ..	333

Council Property (Sewage Works, Refuse Tips, etc.)

Total number of visits	243
------------------------	-------	-----

INFECTIOUS AND FOOD CONVEYED DISEASES

Investigations were carried out, where appropriate, in respect of cases of the above. In addition to procuring specimens for submission to the Public Health Laboratory, certain disinfections were carried out and contacts visited. Notifications from port and airport authorities of actual contacts, or of persons entering the Country from lands where endemic infectious disease exists, were followed up in the usual way.

Items under this heading naturally receive priority treatment, and because usually they cannot be fitted in to a normal prearranged daily programme—and involved considerable travelling—they are somewhat time consuming. Specimen collection in particular could well be carried out by an unqualified person, and the time may not be far off when the appointment of a Technical Assistant for this and other similar work would be an economical way of allowing qualified staff to concentrate on the more serious aspects of our work.

HAIRDRESSERS' AND BARBERS' ESTABLISHMENTS

Conditions in the 12 permanent and one mobile establishment were in general satisfactory, only minor infringements—dealt with “on the spot”—coming to light.

CLEAN AIR

On behalf of the County Council, this Department operates two automatic sampling machines, one at Balcombe Victory Hall and one at the Balcombe Water Tower. Regular weekly visits are made and the results of titrations or reflectometer readings transmitted to Warren Spring Laboratory for incorporation in national statistics. Routine maintenance—mainly to the air pumps—is carried out.

Activities under the Acts were surprisingly small this year, only one notification of “installation” being received, and one application (which was granted) for “prior approval”.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Parish Councils arrange for local labour to undertake cleaning of these premises; this Council pays an agreed weekly contribution towards this and supplies certain cleansing materials.

In spite of some difficulties in recruiting labour, the Parish Councils, in the main, perform this public service in a commendable way.

COMPLAINTS

In addition to the many complaints dealt with verbally, from telephonic or personal callers, or during inspections for other purposes, the following general complaints were recorded as requiring special visits and follow up procedure:—

Overflowing cesspools	..	..	..	4
Drainage	..	..	..	23
Housing defects	..	..	..	5
Rats and mice	..	..	..	311
Fly infestation	..	..	..	10
Unsatisfactory living conditions	..	..	..	3
Sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	2
Keeping of pigs or poultry	..	..	..	3
Dust and smoke nuisance	..	..	..	5
Noise nuisance	..	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	14
				<hr/>
				385
				<hr/>

It was necessary to report to the Committee certain cases of a more serious nature or where considerable public concern was evident.

One such case involved the emission of dust from the operations of a plant producing road surfacing material. Although of only localised interest, the main contention was that the works should not have been allowed there in the first place—not by any means an uncommon point of view.

Despite the initial provision of purpose made dust extraction plant, increased demand for the materials produced, and an altered specification to allow a denser product, (necessitating a much finer “filler”) aggravated the problem. In any case the aggregate dealt with is of an abrasive nature and quite rapidly wears away trunking and actual portions of the cyclones and wet scrubbers used.

As a result of representations, ready co-operation was forthcoming, and necessary repairs made to the existing system which was also extensively modified (at a cost of several thousand pounds) with the result that a real improvement was made. Naturally wear and tear will have to be taken into account but the improvement was maintained during 1970.

Another case involving the manufacture and anodising of jewellery chain and components, this time on the outskirts of an " industrial " village, was found in due course to be partly a matter dealt with by H.M. Alkali Inspector. As a result of the normal close liaison which exists between us, this matter was satisfactorily resolved, a sophisticated acid vapour neutralising plant was installed in place of the earlier " home made " plant. Because we are " on the spot " and because complaints are invariably addressed to us anyway, an initial investigation is carried out before the complaints are passed on. One such case referred to noise from the equipment; this was found to be due to a broken fan spindle and was only confirmed on dismantling. A stronger spindle and other modifications appears to have had the desired result.

A different noise complaint from another part of the works involved the use, during and after normal hours, of a compressor. Only the adjoining occupant appeared to be worried about this, but as a result of informal representation a quieter compressor sited in a different position took over much of the work of the equipment complained of and which was not used after normal finishing time. This (marked) improvement did not entirely satisfy the complainant who really wanted the whole factory moved!

A very substantial amount of time had to be allocated to one farm in the central area of the rural district. Although in a relatively isolated position, the few persons affected brought extreme pressure to bear and, as so often happens, the rule rather than the exception was to fail to substantiate upon inspection an actionable nuisance.

An average population of up to 200,000 hens (housed in battery cages) produce not only eggs but a considerable quantity of waste. Estimates as to the actual amount of this varies, the firm's consultants (based on a slightly lower population figure) suggests 4,000 gallons per day. In any case the final retention point is an artificial lagoon upwards of two acres in extent and a depth at one point of fifteen feet.

During 1969 complaints centred on the group of chicken houses in the north west area of the farm. In the latter part of the previous year a statutory notice was issued requiring the covering of the individual dung pits serving the various chicken houses. Due to a variety of excuses—not least the admittedly inclement weather encountered—this work was delayed and eventually the matter was referred to the Court for adjudication. Completion was arranged before the Hearing and the application withdrawn.

Somehow or other the firm managed to keep " on top " of the problem for the rest of the year until late December when trouble was again experienced—this time involving the main lagoon and the disposal of its contents—and 1970 was to see a major problem flare up, with the River Authority actively concerned and local residents taking steps to apply, privately, for an injunction.

This case illustrates the normal pattern of events, viz great care being taken to feed and house the birds, but with little thought applied in advance regarding the satisfactory disposal of the inevitable waste products.

PETROLEUM STORAGE

This Council is responsible for the granting of storage licences and general supervision of premises which, in respect of petroleum spirit, range from large trunk road service stations to farms with perhaps only one small

tank, and also premises where perhaps only small quantities of inflammable paint spraying fluids are used.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the sole Petroleum Officer appointed to undertake this work and there are currently 93 licensed premises covering approximately 198 tanks and a potential storage capacity of 254,700 gallons.

It was not possible to fully inspect all premises during the year—only quick checks being practicable—and, further-more, the normal routine tank testing programme could not be maintained. All new applications, and alterations to existing apparatus were, however, fully covered.

Petroleum spirit is a particularly dangerous substance and the fact that rather less than optimum supervision has been possible of late causes some concern ; I appreciate, however, that my Deputy has been prepared to assist in times of stress or during my absence on leave, etc.

